Phila Dec. 30th 1856.

Respected Friends,

81 It would be very congenial to my feelings to respond affirmatively to your kind invitation to mingle heart and voice with you on your approaching festival. Circumstances, however, forbid this gratification.

With pleasure I take a retrospective view of the period, when I was induced to unite with your Society, in consideration of its faithful affirmation of "the inherent sinfulness of Slavery, and, consequently, the duty of immediate and unconditional emancipation." Against this Rock of righteous principle, the proud waves of vile Oppression beat in vain. Hereon we must, and, by the grace of God, we will abide, until the last groan of the last victim of slavery shall be exchanged for the song of deliverance.

Animated by the high consideration that the God of the poor, the angels of mercy, and the righteous of the earth, are with us, let us gird ourselves anew for the holy warfare, and go forth in the Name and in the Strength of Jehovah, furnished only from his own armory with the weapons which are mighty to pull down this strong hold of sin which this hypocritical Nation has established in defiance of the laws of God and the rights of humanity.

I pray that the wisdom which cometh from above, unmingled with that which is from beneath, may guide your deliberations.

Yours for the slave
Henry Grew

Thos. H. { W. L. Garrison, Francis Jackson, Sam'l May, Jr. } Committee